

rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 435, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 236) recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 236

Whereas the Republic of San Marino is the oldest republic in the world;

Whereas the Republic of San Marino was founded by those fleeing the religious persecution of the Roman Empire, and has adhered to the principles of tolerance and individual liberty throughout its history;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of San Marino have long held close ties based on common interests and common values;

Whereas the special bond between the Republic of San Marino and the United States was first expressed nearly a century and a half ago in an exchange of letters between President Abraham Lincoln and the Captains Regent of San Marino;

Whereas President Lincoln expressed in his letter his deep respect for the Republic of San Marino as "one of the most honored in all of history" and took encouragement from its example that a "government founded on republican principles is capable of being so administered as to be secure and enduring";

Whereas the Republic of San Marino has been a steadfast ally of the United States in many international organizations, such as the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund;

Whereas the Republic of San Marino has been a close collaborator on a number of key economic issues, such as the protection of intellectual property;

Whereas the Republic of San Marino has been a close collaborator in the fight against terrorism, including efforts to combat international terrorist financing;

Whereas through its chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Republic of San Marino has worked to promote inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue;

Whereas earlier this year, the United States and the Republic of San Marino upgraded their diplomatic relations to ambassador-level, and exchanged the first bilateral Ambassadors in our history;

Whereas Paolo Rondelli, the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of San Marino to the United States, presented his credentials to President Bush at a ceremony at the White House on July 25, 2007; and

Whereas the Honorable Ronald P. Spogli presented credentials to the Captains Regent (co-Heads of State) in a ceremony in San Marino's Palazzo Pubblico on March 8, 2007: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino;

(2) expresses its deep gratitude to the Republic of San Marino for its close collaboration and support in issues of critical importance to our economic and national security interests; and

(3) commemorates the first bilateral exchange of Ambassadors in the history of our long relationship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), for introducing this resolution that recognizes a small but important friend of the United States.

It is often said, Mr. Speaker, that good things come in small packages, and in the case of San Marino, this is certainly true. San Marino is the third smallest country in Europe, only Vatican City and Monaco being smaller.

San Marino, which is home to 29,000 inhabitants in a territory one-third the size of the District of Columbia, attracts several million visitors a year. The tourist industry makes up over 50 percent of the country's GDP.

San Marino is said to be the oldest republic in the world. It was founded in 301 A.D. by Marinus of Rab, a Christian fleeing from religious persecution by the Roman Emperor.

Its constitution, which dates back to 1600, is the world's oldest written constitution, and remains in effect to this day.

San Marino has been an active player at the international level, including the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, and Council of Europe. Through these bodies, San Marino has sought to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, as well as the protection of intellectual property.

San Marino has also cultivated a close friendship with the United States based on our shared values and interests. This relationship was first expressed when President Abraham Lincoln exchanged letters with the Captains Regent of San Marino.

Nearly 150 years after these letters were sent, the United States and San Marino upgraded their bilateral relations to include the first ever exchange

of ambassadors. President Bush welcomed San Marino's new Ambassador, Paulo Rondelli, during a White House ceremony on July 25. U.S. Ambassador Ronald Spogli presented his credentials to the Captains Regent in San Marino's Palazzo Pubblico on March 8. I welcome this development in our bilateral relations, and look forward to ever closer cooperation with our European ally.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution which recognizes the close relationship between our two countries, expresses gratitude to San Marino for its friendship and support, and commemorates the first ever exchange of ambassadors.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let's take a moment to recognize an ally whose relationship with the United States certainly exceeds its size. Completely surrounded by Italy, the European microstate of San Marino has the smallest population of all the members of the Council of Europe. Yet, San Marino has made a strong ally of the United States, most notably within a number of international institutions, including the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund. In fact, the U.S. and San Marino have collaborated closely on several key issues such as combating international terrorist financing and protecting intellectual property rights.

Moreover, San Marino has been a leader in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the European Union. The value of our relationship was marked earlier this year by the first exchange of ambassadors between the U.S. and San Marino.

I, therefore, ask my colleagues to join me in supporting Ranking Member DREIER's H. Con. Res. 236, recognizing our close relationship with the Republic of San Marino.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the author of this resolution, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) such time as he may consume. (Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), for their very thoughtful remarks on this resolution.

I also want to join in expressing my appreciation to my fellow Californian, the distinguished Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. LANTOS and, of course, the ranking Republican, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

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I think both of the sets of remarks offered underscore something that is extraordinarily important, and that is that we thank and express our appreciation to our allies, no matter how